NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

For the information of N. C. A. members exclusively
Publication or reproduction not permitted

No. 342 | Washington, D. C. | February 15, 1930

CONTENTS

	Page
Committee to investigate fruit fly appropriation needs	1853
Canned tomato pack in 1929	1853
Truck crop markets	1854
Business conditions	1855
Retail trade in January	1856
Bahama tomato shipments	1856
Federal prisons ask bids on canned foods	1856
Cuban vegetable shipments to United States	1856
Semi-annual credit survey planned	1857
Venezuela imposes surcharge on goods imported in cartons	1857
Legislation affecting Portuguese sardine industry	1858
New spray to control bacterial spot of peach	1858
Publications of interest to canners	1859

Committee to Investigate Fruit Fly Appropriation Needs

The House on February 10 adopted a resolution authorizing a subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations to conduct hearings and examine estimates of appropriations for the eradication, control, and prevention of the spread of the Mediterranean fruit fly, and to visit Florida and other adjacent territory to obtain data and information in connection with the purposes of such estimates. The appointment of this committee resulted from a difference of opinion with respect both to the use made of past appropriations and as to the necessity of additional funds for continuing the eradication work.

Canned Tomato Pack in 1929

The Department of Commerce announced on February 11 that, according to the data collected at the annual census of canneries, the total pack of tomatoes in the United States in 1929 was equivalent to 14,145,301 standard cases of No. 3 cans, an increase of 65.7 per cent as compared with 8,538,582 standard cases packed in 1928.

The actual number of cases of tomatoes packed in 1929 was 20,784,305, of which 1,831,594 cases were of No. 1 cans (48 to the case), 10,562,568 cases of No. 2 cans (24 to the case), 2,940,126 cases of No. 2½ cans (24 to the case), 1,909,450 cases of No. 3 cans (24 to the case), 2,784,445 cases of No. 10 cans (6 to the case), and 756,122 cases of cans of other sizes (5 oz., 8 oz., 11 oz., 12 oz., 15 oz., 16 oz., 3 lbs., 5 gal., No. 1 tall, No. 2 squat, No. 5, No. 9, No. 93, No. 95, No. 55, No. 303) and glass jars.

The total number of reports received from establishments packing tomatoes was 874, of which 853 reported operations in one state only, 18 in two states, and 3 in three states.

The following table presents statistics for each state which reported a pack of more than 90,000 standard cases:

States	Actual number of cases as reported		Equivalent number of standard cases	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Maryland	6,317,031	2,672,182	4,050,160	1,720,371
California	3,723,805	2,669,681	2,811,530	1,991,022
Indiana	1,386,326	883,431	1,134,181	613,037
Virginia	1,420,491	697,502	918,475	465,755
Arkansas	1,285,946	1,010,585	768,643	613,065
Delaware	1,161,658	443,424	851,238	324,876
Utah	1,022,519	1,219,869	767,633	923,727
Missouri	997,177	636,000	621,613	393,908
Tennessee	480,489	238,274	297,114	139,618
New York	456,851	332,458	328,937	261,369
New Jersey	325,694	128,247	250,523	94,543
Colorado	275,071	220,753	195,454	137,666
Illinois	274,126	180,434	184,284	126,238
Kentucky	259,089	175,488	166,570	111,480
Ohio	209,291	167,512	158,343	124,322
Pennsylvania	191,965	146,991	121,958	94,909
Iowa	148,749	81,546	93,273	49,299
Other states a	627,977	434,444	422,237	311,457
Total	20,784,305	12,836,441	14,143,301	8,538,392

a For 1929: Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. For 1928: Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Truck Crop Markets

Movement of Texas spinach increased to 375 cars during the week ended February 8. The total orange output was still 1,500 cars weekly, with 640 from Florida and 850 from California. Grapefruit shipments decreased to 560 cars, with movement from both Florida and Texas considerably lighter than it had been. Forwardings of cauliflower from California decreased slightly to 440 cars, and only 165 carloads of green peas came from Mexico.

Apple shipments continued at a rate of 250 cars daily, and prices were almost unchanged. About 910 cars came from the West last week and 760 from eastern sections. Forwardings from Washington decreased to 720 cars, but New York increased to 260, and the Virginias originated 365.

Sharp increases of tomato acreage this spring in Florida and Texas may result in three early-shipping states having a combined acreage of 36,600, or 11,000 acres more than last season. Florida outside the lower East Coast expects fully 24,000 acres, a 50 per cent gain over 1929. The lower valley of Texas may have 11,000 acres, as against 8,000 last year, but Imperial Valley

of California will be reduced. Florida shipments increased last week to 85 cars, compared with 265 a year ago. Mexico sent 150 cars, and Cuba and the Bahamas together about 55.

Combined movement of 23 leading products for the week decreased to 15,440 cars, as against 16,110 during the same period last winter.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Feb. 2-8 1930	Jan. 26 Feb. 1 1930	Feb. 3-9 1929	Total this season to Feb. 8	Total last season to Feb. 9	Total last season
Apples, total	1,673	1,744	1,953	85,307	111,744	127,530
Eastern states	761	694	825	43,976	56,429	62,708
Western states	912	1,050	1,128	41,391	55,315	64,822
Carrots:						
1930 season	164	357	176	3,221	2,643	11,409
1929 season	81	74	51	11,409	7,196	7,455
Cabbage:						
1930 season	374	474	779	2,345	2,766	43,441
1929 season	334	483	219	43,441	38,242	38,600
Cauliflower	442	529	482	5,500	6,272	9,889
Green peas:						
Domestic	3	2	12	474	465	5,162
Imports	166	213	154	1,582	778	1,851
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	587	690	616	3,611	4,127	32,382
Imports	21	13	9	126	86	218
Pears	85	67	52	20,141	23,939	24,439
Peppers:						
Domestic	13	19	33	212	169	3,287
Imports	27	32	50	210	275	566
Spinach	395	297	324	3,705	4,480	10,257
String beans:						
Domestic	95	115	56	2,013	564	9,616
Imports	0	3	5	11	62	66
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	83	59	265	317	1,446	31,932
Imports	207	245	373	1,846	2,729	6,261

Business Conditions

The volume of money turnover during the week ended February 8, as indicated by check payments, was greater than in either the previous week or the corresponding period of 1929, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. Steel-plant operations during the latest reported week were on a higher level than during the previous week but were below a year ago. Receipts of wheat and cotton during the latest week were considerably smaller than in the corresponding period of the previous year. Receipts of cattle and of hogs, however, were greater than a year ago.

The general level of wholesale prices showed a fractional gain as compared with the preceding week, but was lower than a year ago.

Bank loans and discounts at the end of the week were lower than at the end of the previous week but showed a gain over a year ago. Business failures were more numerous than in either prior period. Stock prices strengthened over the pre-

vious week's level but were still below the average of the corresponding week of 1929.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended February 1	898,894	306,043	238,198	354,743
Preceding week	862,621	283,147	232,959	346,515
Corresponding week, 1929	947,154	279,613	230,446	437,095
Corresponding week, 1928	926,202	283,427	227,118	415,717

Retail Trade in January

Department store sales for January were 2 per cent smaller than in the corresponding month a year ago, according to preliminary reports made to the Federal reserve system by 490 stores located in leading cities of all Federal reserve districts. For the country as a whole the decrease was the same as that shown in the comparison of December with December a year ago.

Bahama Tomato Shipments

Shipments of tomatoes from the Bahamas to the United States from the opening of the 1929-30 shipping season up to January 25, 1930, have amounted to only 1,647,822 pounds, as compared with 7,749,225 pounds during the corresponding period last season, according to the American vice consul at Nassau. Of the 1929-30 exports, 1,160,762 pounds were shipped during the three weeks, January 6 to January 25.

On January 18 a shipment of 117 crates of tomatoes left Nassau for Canada. This was the first shipment of its kind ever made and results are anticipated locally with considerable interest. Reports concerning the condition of this shipment upon arrival in Canada have not yet been received.

Federal Prisons Ask Bids on Canned Foods

The Superintendent of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, is asking for bids on a quantity of canned foods, including tomatoes, corn, peas, string beans, spinach, ketchup, hominy, beets, pie peaches, apples, and pumpkin, for delivery at correctional institutions Chillicothe, Ohio, and Alderson, W. Va., and f.o.b. Detention Headquarters, 427 West St., New York City. The bids are to be opened at 11.00 a. m. on March 4, and schedules on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Superintendent of Prisons at Washington.

Cuban Vegetable Shipments to United States

Shipments of Cuban vegetables to the United States during January amounted to 8,274,000 pounds as compared with 12,-

073,000 pounds in December and with 9,379,000 pounds in January, 1929, according to a report from the American consul at Havana. Tomatoes continued most important in the shipments, having constituted 58 per cent of the exports for the month, but the total amounted to only 4,766,000 pounds, as compared with 9,619,000 pounds in December. Shipments of green peppers, eggplant and cucumbers to date this season have been considerably larger than last season.

Semi-Annual Credit Survey Planned

A semi-annual survey of retail sales credit trends will be made by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce beginning July 1 next. This semi-annual survey has grown out of work started in 1928, and the questionnaires to be used will relate to such subjects as the percentage of business done on a credit basis, promptness with which accounts are being paid, value of each month's sales, extent of installment sales, losses from bad debts, losses caused by fraudulent buying and fraudulent checks, and similar data which represent information that will be of very definite value to the business men who will cooperate in their collection. Losses caused by the acceptance of fraudulent checks and other associated methods of obtaining money or merchandise will be ascertained for the first time in addition to the usual figures on losses from bad debts.

The data will be gathered from seven types of retail stores consisting of furniture, department, jewelry, men's clothing, shoes, women's specialty, and electrical appliance stores, through the cooperation of the local credit bureaus and the District Offices of the Department of Commerce. Merchants in the following twenty-three cities will be asked to cooperate in furnishing the information: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, Ore., Richmond, Va., St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D. C.

Venezuela Imposes Surcharge on Goods Imported in Cartons

The Venezuelan customs authorities are now applying a provision of the custom law, hitherto unenforced, which specifies that when merchandise which is ordinarily shipped in wooden or metal containers is imported in bulk, in bales, or in cartons, it shall be appraised with a surcharge of 20 per cent above the duty, since for tariff purposes the container or packing of merchandise takes the same rate of duty as the goods themselves, except when these containers are of such a character as to carry

a higher duty than the goods, according to a cable from the American vice consul at Maracaibo. According to members of the trade in Venezuela, this law will make it difficult for certain American products imported in cartons, such as condensed milk, to compete with cheaper foreign goods which are shipped in wooden boxes and pay duty on gross weight.

Legislation Affecting Portuguese Sardine Industry

By a degree promulgated December 10, 1929, the Portuguese Government has withdrawn from packers of fish the privilege of importing olive oil and peanut oil under the drawback regime. This is another measure of the Finance Ministry's program of simplification of duties and formalities incidental to foreign trade, according to a recent report received from the American consul at Lisbon.

Packers of fish who require qualities of oil not available in Portugal must now pay the duties upon importation and are compensated by abolition of export duties and other taxes on preserved fish. Sardines in olive oil (as well as other canned fish) are not only free of export duties under the new regime, but are not subject to the 2 per cent surtax created by the Decree of July 31, 1928, and other taxes created by the decree of November 6, 1917. The latter had been rendered negligible by the depreciation in value of the escudo.

New Spray to Control Bacterial Spot of Peach

A new spray containing zinc and lime which promises to give commercial control of bacterial spot of peaches has been developed by the United States Department of Agriculture. This discovery is especially important since this is the first time, so far as known, that a bacterial disease of fruits has been brought under direct control by spraying.

Tests carried on in southern Indiana and in Arkansas have shown that six applications of the spray at intervals of two weeks, beginning at "petal fall," greatly decrease the effects of the disease with no injury to fruit or foliage. In addition there was a stimulation which resulted in larger and darker green leaves. It was found also that lead arsenate might be used in connection with this material, thus reducing labor costs.

The spray solution is prepared by using 4 pounds of zinc sulphate, 4 pounds of hydrated lime, and 50 gallons of water. One pound of aluminum sulphate may be added where agitation is poor or entirely lacking, as this helps to keep the material in suspension.

Publications of Interest to Canners

Apple pruning.—An illustrated pamphlet on pruning apple trees in Illinois has been issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Urbana as Circular 349.

Asparagus fertilizers.—Field and sand culture experiments on fertilizing asparagus conducted by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Maryland, at College Park, Md., are reported upon in bulletin 314 issued by the Station. The work followed earlier experiments on fertilizing asparagus, and is designed chiefly to compare commercial fertilizer with manure, and to further test the value of spring versus midsummer applications of the treatments.

Corn borer in Europe.—Technical Bulletin No. 135 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture presents a review of the investigations of the corn borer carried on by the Department in Central Europe from 1924 to 1927. These investigations were conducted largely in the Central European plain region, the most important corn-producing area, and included a study of the borer's host plants, seasonal history of the borer, and the extent and economic results of infestation. The investigation also covered the natural enemies of the borer and the methods that have been developed for its control.

Fisheries investigations.—Progress in investigations relating to marine and inland fisheries during 1928 is reported in a bulletin just published by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. Of particular interest to canners are reports on the Pacific Coast and Alaska investigations relating to salmon and herring, and oyster investigations on the East and West Coast. The publication is Bureau of Fisheries Document No. 1068, and may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office at 20 cents a copy.

Peach irrigation.—Reports on irrigation experiments with peaches in California and on the canning quality of irrigated peaches have been issued as Bulletin 479 of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Berkeley.

Salmon.—"Salmon—An Economical and Valuable Food" is the title of a popular bulletin just issued by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. The bulletin briefly describes the natural history of the various species of salmon, the various methods used in capturing it and preparing it for food and the Federal and state regulations governing the salmon fisheries. The publication is identified as Economic Circular No. 69, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, and may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents per copy.

Salmon in California.—The Division of Fish and Game of California has prepared a report on the salmon fishery of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. The report, prepared by G. H. Clark, is published as Fisheries Bulletin No. 17 and is entitled "Sacramento-San Joaquin Salmon (Oncorhynchus tschawytscha) fishery of California."

Sardines.—"Sardine Fishing Methods at Monterey, California" is the title of fish bulletin No. 19 from the California State Fisheries Laboratory, Terminal, California. The author is W. L. Scofield of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the bulletin includes general information regarding the size and extent of the industry, the nature of fishing gear and methods of fishing used at Monterey.

Strawberries.—The production and marketing of strawberries on the Eastern Shore of Maryland is the subject of a bulletin (No. 315) issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Maryland, at College Park, Md. The bulletin deals with methods and cost of production, marketing methods, distribution practices, etc., and there is also a brief section dealing with strawberry insects and diseases.

Subsoils for apple trees.—A study of subsoil as a factor in the growth of apple trees in the Ozarks has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Circular No. 95. The area studied covered about 4,000 square miles, and the results emphasize the fact that control of disease, cultivation and fertilization, which may seem to overcome the handicap of tight subsoil when the orchard is young, cannot overcome it as the trees become older and their demand greater.

Vegetable growing.—Although written primarily as a textbook for agricultural students, the recently published book on "Vegetable Growing," by Dr. James Edward Knott of Cornell University, will doubtless realize the hope of its author that it "will prove of interest and value to the practical grower also, whether his operations are in the home garden or on a larger scale." Nearly two-thirds of the book is devoted to the fundamentals of vegetable production—equipment, seedage, soils and their preparation, fertilizers, cropping systems, insect and disease control, storage, etc.—while the remainder deals with individual vegetables. The volume is illustrated with 62 engravings and has a well-prepared index. One of its most valuable features is the selected list of references to other literature which is appended to each chapter. The book is from the press of Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia.